GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4892
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2002
INDO-IRAN TIES
VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish better relations with Iran;

(b) if so, the areas in which Indo-Iran bilateral ties have been established so far;

(c) whether the Governments of both the countries have proposed to diversify bilateral relations at all levels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b)-(d) India-Iran relations are rooted in history and are based on close cultural and civilisational affinities. In the modern context, our relationship has been marked by a continuity of high level political exchanges between the two countries which have led to ties being established in diverse areas, such as trade and commerce, industry, energy (including on the transfer of Iranian gas to India), transport and communications, agriculture, consular, education and culture.

Prime Minister`s visit to Iran from 10-13 April 2001 imparted a new direction to India-Iran relations. During the visit, PM and President of Iran H.E. Seyed Mohammad Khatamisigned the Tehran Declaration. In addition, agreements on Trade and Economic Cooperation, and Customs; and MoUs on Cooperation in the field of Energy, Power, Technical Cooperation and in the field of Information Technology, were signed.

The entire gamut of bilateral relations is regularly reviewed during the sessions of the India-Iran Joint Commission Meeting. The last session was held in Tehran in May 2000 and the next session is scheduled to be held in New Delhi in May 2002.